

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, after the title, "Contamination barrier," please insert the following new paragraph:

~~--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS~~

This application is a United States national stage filing under 35 U.S.C. §371 of international (PCT) application No. PCT/EP2005/000650, filed January 24, 2005 and designating the US, which claims priority to European application 04001498.7, filed January 23, 2004.

~~FIELD OF THE INVENTION--~~

On page 1, line 6, please insert the following:

~~--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--~~

On page 2, line 22, please insert the following:

~~--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--~~

On page 3, line 6, please insert the following:

~~--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS~~

- Fig. 1      the formation of aerosols from an aqueous solution with sample vessels known from the state of the art;
- Fig. 2      a contamination barrier of the invention covering an aqueous solution in an open vessel;
- Fig. 3      a schematic pipetting procedure known from the state of the art from an open sample vessel during which a part of an aqueous solution is removed with aerosol formation;
- Fig. 4      a schematic pipetting procedure from an open sample vessel during which a part of an aqueous solution below a contamination barrier of the invention is taken without aerosol formation;

Fig.5 a schematic pipetting procedure from an open sample vessel during which a further water-soluble fraction is added to an aqueous solution below a contamination barrier of the invention without aerosol formation.--

On page 3, line 7, please insert:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--

On page 7, line 21, please insert:

--EXAMPLES--

On page 20, line 1, please insert:

--ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION--

On page 5, please delete the text from line 22, beginning with and including: "Shown are: . . ." to page 6, line 11, including: ". . . invention without aerosol formation."

On page 7, line 21, please delete the words "Practical examples".

On page 18, line 1, please delete the word "Summary".